

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06570 221117Z

10 C
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /006 W
----- 013104
P 221025Z MAY 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4451

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6570

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC PINS LE
SUBJECT: KIDNAPPING OF AMBASSADOR'S CHAUFFEUR

REF: A. BEIRUT 6299; B. BEIRUT 6300; C. BEIRUT 6303

1. CHAUFFEUR DE-BRIEFED BY RSS/RSO 19 MAY,
SUBMITTED TO TECHNICAL DE-BRIEFING 20-21 MAY.
BOTH SESSIONS INDICATED ESSENTIALLY TRUE STORY OF
ABDUCTION, HIS QUESTIONING AND HIS RESPONSES. ON
21 MAY POLICE RETURNED WEAPON AND HIS RESPONSES. ON
21 MAY POLICE RETURNED WEAPON TAKEN FROM CHAUFFEUR
BY CAPTORS, REMOVING LAST DOUBT HIS INTEGRITY. AS
CONSEQUENCE CHAUFFEUR RETURNED TO FULL DUTY.

2. INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF
BUILDING IN WHICH QUESTIONED PARALLEL THOSE RECEIVED
DURING DE-BRIEFING OF CALVIN MICHAEL KONNER, FSO FROM
STUTTGART, WHO WAS ABDUCTED LAST WEEK, INDICATING
POSSIBILITY SAI'QA RESPONSIBLE BOTH INCIDENTS.

3. ON 22 MAY CHAUFFEUR TOLD RSS THAT ANOTHER
TENANT HIS FLAT NAMED NOUR AL KUSA IS SAI'QA
ADHERENT AND INFORMS' CHAUFFEUR THAT HE CAN
RECOVER 350 LEBANESE POUNDS TAKEN DURING ABDUCTION,
PROVIDING CHAUFFEUR WILL COME IN PERSON TO CLAIM
MONEY, WHICH CHAUFFEUR REFUSED DO. CHAUFFEUR SAID
TEWFIK SAMHOURI, DRIVER OF A VEHICLE INVOLVED IN
AGDUCTION, HAS BEEN MEMBER OF SAI'QA LAST TWO YEARS
AND RUNS SHOP TWO BLOCKS FROM CHAUFFEUR'S
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RESIDENCE. CHAUFFEUR INFORMED BY AL KUSA THAT

SAI'QA GOONS HAD BEEN ON PATROL TO ABDUCT SOMEONE
AND SEEING CHAUFFEUR'S CAR AND KNOWING HE EMPLOYED
BY EMBASSY DECIDED TO SNATCH HIM. IF TRUE, CHAUFFEUR
WAS TARGET OF OPPORTUNITY. FINALLY, CHAUFFEUR
REPORTED THAT SAI'QA ISSUING AK-47 AUTOMATIC WEAPONS
TO CITIZENRY IN HIS NEIGHBORHOOD, OPENLY CARRYING
WEAPONS AND STOPPING CARS YESTERDAY AND THIS MORNING.
AREA OF RESIDENCE IS RAMLET EL ZARIF.

4. REPORT OF INVESTIGATION DRAFTED, WILL BE POUCHED
SOONEST.
GODLEY

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